

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01256 131345Z
ACTION SS-25

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R 131252Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4135

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 1256

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AMGT, SU
SUBJECT: NIMEIRI INQUIRES RE C-130 AND F-5E SALES PROCEDURES

REF: KHARTOUM 1205

1. NIMEIRI'S MINSTATE FOR SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS,
DR. BAHAI IDRIS, SUMMONED ME APRIL 13 TO DISCUSS
MONALITIES C-130 SALE. IDRIS SAID NIMEIRI WISHED FOLLOW
PROCEDURES EXACTLY AND DESIRED KNOW WHAT STEPS NECESSARY
IN ORDER ACCOMPLISH DELIVERY C-130 AIRCRAFT HERE SOONEST.
REPLIED BY AGAIN EXPLAINING CONGRESSIONAL REFERRAL
PROCEDURES, OPINING THAT INFORMAL NOTIFICATION PERHAPS
ALREADY DELIVERED CONGRESS. FOLLOWING THIS 20 DAYS,
CONGRESS WOULD BE NOTIFIED OFFICIALLY AND WOULD HAVE
UNTIL ROUGHLY END MAY TO PASS ON SALE. IDRIS SAID HE
UNDERSTOOD BUT THAT NIMEIRI ALSO INTERESTED IN
SUBSEQUENT PROCEDURES. HE WISHED GUIDANCE AS TO WHAT
STEPS NEEDED BE TAKEN THEREAFTER. I REPLIED THAT,
ONCE USG APPROVAL PROCESS COMPLETE, DETAILS
WOULD PRESUMABLY HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT WITH MANUFACTURER,
IN THIS CASE LOCKHEED. TOLD IDRIS I WOULD PASS ON TO
HIM ANY SPECIFIC COMMENTS DEPT MIGHT HAVE AT VARIANCE
WITH WHAT I HAD TOLD HIM.

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2. DIRIS THEN ASKED WHAT STEPS WOULD BE NECESSARY
TO OBTAIN F-5E FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD
SUDAN MAKE OFFICIAL APPLICATION NOW? REPLIED
THIS COULD BE DONE, BUT MY PERSONAL JUDGMENT WAS
THAT NO FORMAL ACTION RE FIGHTER AIRCRAFT SHOULD BE
INITIATED UNTIL AFTER USG PROCEDURES RE C-130
DEAL COMPLETED. IDRIS INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD.

HOWEVER, HE SAID NIMEIRI WOULD STILL APPRECIATE GUIDANCE AS TO STEPS NECESSARY FOR USE WHEN THE TIME COMES. I TOLD HIM PROCEDURE WOULD NO DOUBT BE SIMILAR C-130 TRANSACTION BUT THAT I WOULD DOUBLE CHECK WITH WASHINGTON.

3. IDRIS, WHO RETURNED FEW DAYS AGO FROM VISIT RIYADH, SAID THAT SAUDIS HAD SPECIFICALLY RECOMMENDED F-5E AIRCRAFT SINCE SAUDI ARABIA WOULD "PARTICIPATE IN THEIR PROCUREMENT". MOREOVER, IT COMPATIBLE WITH THAT IN USE IN SAUDI ARABIA.

4. COMMENT: EARLIER DEPT GUIDANCE HAS BEEN HELPFUL BUT, IN LIGHT ABOVE SPECIFIC REQUEST, WOULD APPRECIATE ADDITIONAL DETAILED INFO RE SPECIFIC STEPS IN FMS PROCEDURES. SEEMS CLEAR NIMEIRI HAS GOTTEN MESSAGE THAT PREMATURE PUBLICITY ON C-130 EAL APRIL 9 MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN WISEST COURSE AND WISHES AVOID ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN FUTURE. NIMEIRI ALSO IS OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN UNDERTAKING PROCUREMENT STEPS FOR C-130'S AT EARLIEST MOMENT AUTHORIZED. BELIEVE WE CAN CONTINUE HOLD SUDAN GOVT OFF ON FORMAL REQUEST FOR FIGHTER AIRCRAFT UNTIL THEN, BUT WOULD BE GRATEFUL SOME GENERALIZED RESPONSE, INCLUDING REFERENCE PRIOR DEPT INSTRUCTIONS, WHICH WILL ENABLE ME GIVE IDRIS SOME GUIDANCE FOR NIMEIRI RE THEORETICAL STEPS NECESSARY. I WOULD OF COURSE EMPHASIZE THAT THIS WAS BEING DONE WITHOUT COMMITMENT OF ANY KIND.
BREWER

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